

Serial No. 09/806,613

Welding Method

ABSTRACT

A method is disclosed of forming a weld between workpieces over a joint region, including the following steps: exposing the joint region to incident radiation having a wavelength outside the visible range so as to cause melting of the surface of one or both workpieces at the joint region, and allowing the melted material to cool thereby welding the workpieces together, the method further including providing a radiation absorbing dye at the joint region in one of the workpieces or between the workpieces which has an absorption band matched to the wavelength of the incident radiation so as to absorb the incident radiation and generate heat for the melting process, the radiation absorbing dye being visually transmissive after welding.

(X-8)